

ILLEGIB

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BEIRUT RNS IN ARABIC 1210Z 1 MAY 67 M

(TEXT) DAMASCUS--CHIEF OF STATE DR. HUR AD-DIN AL-ATASI TODAY ISSUED A LEGISLATIVE DECREE REVOKING THE LICENSE OF THE AMERICAN FRIENDS OF THE MIDDLE EAST IN SYRIA. THE DECREE GAVE THE FOLLOWING REASON: "IT HAS BEEN ESTABLISHED BEYOND ANY DOUBT THAT THIS ASSOCIATION IS CONNECTED FIRMLY WITH THE CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY, A U.S. ESPIONAGE AGENCY." SYRIA HAD SIGNED A TECHNICAL COOPERATION AGREEMENT WITH THIS ASSOCIATION IN LATE 1963, ENABLING IT TO OPEN BRANCHES IN SYRIA. TODAY'S DECREE MAKES THIS AGREEMENT VOID.

1 MAY 1967 JWS/GG

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